



## Coloring California

### The Floss Silk Tree *Chorisia speciosa*

*Chorisia speciosa* 'Los Angeles Beautiful' (floss silk tree) was first introduced by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in the fall of 1974, the time of year when this spectacular tree is at the height of its glory. This magnificent Arboretum introduction has become a dominant tree in the Southern California landscape. These large trees, with green spiny trunks (that grey with age) have been planted in civic centers, on campuses, in residential areas, and in landscaped commercial areas. A wonderful place to view them is, of course, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Evans and Reeves Nursery began selling the trees in the Los Angeles area in 1930. Some of these trees can now be seen as huge older trees at the Bel Air Hotel and on Figueroa Street in front of the Automobile Club of Southern California. The Arboretum started growing *Chorisia*s in 1958 from seeds donated by Dr. Samuel Ayers, Jr.

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## CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

N ■ E ■ W ■ S

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Fall  
1988

## Gala Preview Party to Celebrate the Los Angeles Garden Show



*Trustees (l to r) Marla Carter and Suzie Miller discuss the decorations for the Garden Show Preview Party*

The invitations are in the mail for the Thursday, October 13th, Gala Preview Party of the Los Angeles Garden Show. CAF Trustee, Suzie Miller, has planned a festive evening to celebrate this year's theme "Gardens for All Seasons."

Preview party guests will be treated to special guided tours of the show during the cocktail hour. A delicious demi-dinner, catered by Julianne of San Marino, and dancing to the Home

Savings of America Orchestra will follow in the garden outside of Ayres Hall.

Foundation Benefactor Members will be honored at the party as the Patrons of the Garden Show. Tickets are \$100 per person and tables of eight or ten may be reserved. All Foundation members and their guests are invited to experience this spectacular evening.





## Board Notes from Alice Frost Thomas, President



(l to r) Regula and Douglas Campbell meet with Beverly Rouse, Alice Thomas and Director Francis Ching.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees in May, the firm of Campbell and Campbell was chosen to implement the concepts outlined in the Master Plan for the future of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

The firm is headed by Douglas and Regula Campbell, a husband and wife team. Douglas graduated from Pomona College (BA, 1969) and the University of California at Berkeley (MA, 1974). Regula is a graduate of Scripps College in Claremont (BA, 1969) and UCLA (M. Arch., 1978). As you listen to them talking about their projects that include the Beverly Hills Civic Center, Santa Monica Pier Carousel Park or the Los Angeles Central Library landscaping, it is impossible to tell the landscaper from the architect. Their imaginative ideas and responses to questions blur the lines between the disciplines. Regula's knowledge of plants is astonishing as is Doug's familiarity with architectural history. Their enthusiastic endorsement of blending buildings with plants, of creating unique settings to accommodate particular plant materials to their best advantage, promises innovative changes at the Arboretum while maintaining the integrity of the collections.

Campbell and Campbell headquarters are a small Santa Monica office. However, the very nature of their work takes them outdoors most of the time

as they study project sites. Alexander, their two year old son, has been joining them on weekend visits to the Arboretum. He loves to feed the peacocks.

Doug and Regula have been studying available topographic maps and architectural plans while evaluating the Master Plan, with specific focus on programs, space allocations and concepts for each individual project. Priority areas are the entrance, remodeling and expanded terraces for the Peacock Pavilion Restaurant, new space for the California Arboretum Foundation offices and the Gift Shop, a new library/education building north of Ayres Hall, an area for the volunteers and improved facilities for the handicapped.

The Campbells propose to strengthen the visitor's initial impression of the Arboretum by creating buildings that resemble garden pavilions, rather than by making an architectural statement. They want to turn away from current trends of deconstructivism, study all that was good and positive from the past and recreate, restore and expand on those ideas for the benefit of future generations. Regula comments, "our favorite job is a public project. It is exciting to think of the number of people who will see what we have done and take advantage of our ideas."



### A Paragon - Ruth Mary Larson

It is impossible to let this model of the excellent volunteer resign from the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees without remarking on her abilities and accomplishments and wondering how long it will be before she tires of traveling and decides to accept reappointment. Ruth Mary Larson could never be replaced - except by herself.

Joining the Arboretum volunteer group in 1968, in its beginning years, as a school field leader, Ruth Mary distinguished herself rapidly and was soon asked to be president of Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes. She wouldn't take the job right away but did so in 1972. That was the year of the second Baldwin Bonanza Plant Sale. The preview party was in the Lecture Hall, and the volunteer ladies wore long dresses. Ruth Mary made most of the hors d'oeuvres as she had for the first party. Her culinary talents had been discovered, and she became as renowned for her cooking as for her leadership.



Ruth Mary Larson, retiring Foundation Trustee, takes off from the Arboretum for new adventures.

Continuing as President in 1973, Ruth Mary also became Baldwin Bonanza Chairman when the appointed chairman had to resign. The sale was expanding into an ever larger area of the Arboretum grounds as the uniqueness of the plants offered attracted more and more garden enthusiasts.

In 1974, without a pause, Ruth Mary accepted what was to become an enormous and time consuming job - manager of the Gift Shop. The Board of Trustees had decided to change the

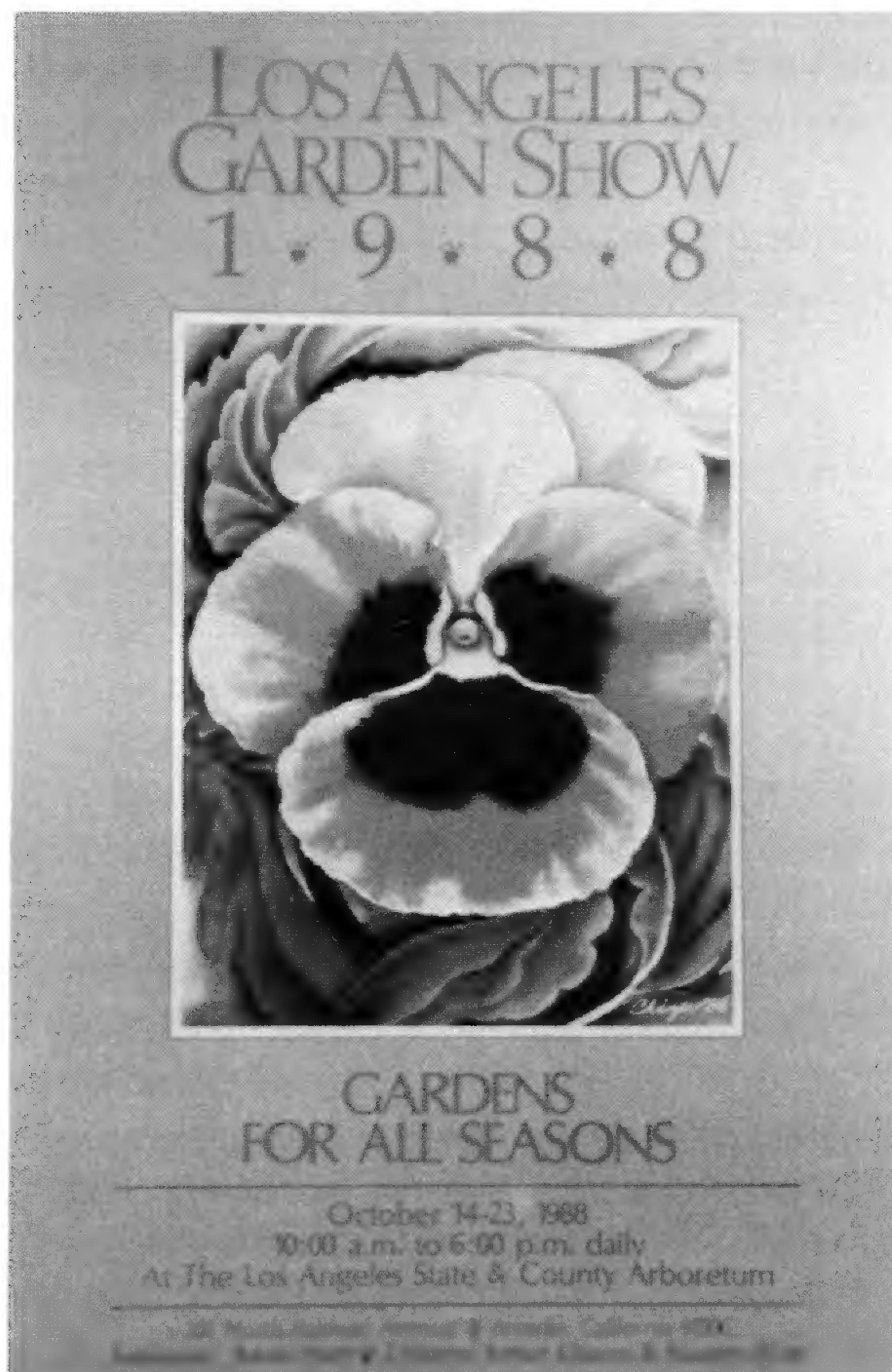
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## Development News

### Become a Patron of the 1988 Garden Show

The 1988 Benefactor members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Patrons of the Los Angeles Garden Show, will be honored for their important contributions at the Garden Show Preview Party. Founded by the Foundation's Board of Trustees in 1981 under the leadership of the Foundation President, Jim Curry and Betty Wall (Mrs. Sidney), the Benefactors have a longstanding tradition of providing special support for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.



Each year since their founding, the Benefactors' contributions have supported a special project at the Arboretum. In 1981, Benefactor gifts made a new roof on the Coach Barn possible. The following year, an interpretive center was constructed for the Australian section. In 1984 the pergola overlooking the koi pond was built. Benefactor donations have also been allocated to the Bog Garden construction.

Benefactor members continue to be a growing and vital support group of the Foundation. Chairman Hannah Bradley cordially invites you to join the Benefactors with a contribution of \$1000 or more. In addition to being listed as Patron of the Garden Show,

Benefactors receive two complimentary tickets to the Garden Show Preview gala, Thursday, October 13, 1988, and all other benefits of membership in the California Arboretum Foundation. For further information about becoming a Benefactor and Patron of the 1988 Garden Show, please call the Foundation Office at 818-447-8207.

The Board of Trustees extends their appreciation to the following 1988 Benefactors:

Mr. and Mrs. Guilford C. Babcock  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Banning  
Mrs. Hannah G. Bradley  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Braun  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Crowe  
Mr. and Mrs. John N. Fehrer  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Freeberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Frank  
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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Heath  
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Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Macneil  
Mrs. Elise Mudd Marvin  
Mrs. Dorothy McMillen  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent McMillen  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray T. McCullough  
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ray  
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Mrs. George Vernon Russell  
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Stein  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Randall Stoke  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Strub  
Dr. Bonnie C. Templeton  
Mrs. Dudley W. Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tauer, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney H. Wall



## entertainment '89

### Offered to CAF Members

If you are not already using the ENTERTAINMENT® '89 book and fine dining card AND saving lots of money, this important notice is for you! ENTERTAINMENT® '89 is a Discount Club, now in its 28th year, with hundreds of two-for-one offers

from well-known restaurants and attractions.

The cost to join the program for 1989 is \$30.00. In return, you'll receive a fine dining card (wallet-sized) good for two-for-one lunches and dinners at elegant local restaurants. ENTERTAINMENT® '89 is also a family coupon book with hundreds of 50% off or two-for-one offers redeemable at casual restaurants, movies, live theater, sporting events, special attractions, and more.

You will also receive a travel club membership with discounts at hotels, condo rentals, tours, and more. A copy of the ENTERTAINMENT® '89 Book is available for your review. Take a look at the restaurants, their menus, and the other discounts available.

*Books will be available early Fall. For more information on membership contact: 818-447-8207*



### Year End Tax Advice: Plan Now

It is not too early to begin your end-of-year plans for a charitable donation to the California Arboretum Foundation.

Your individual situation may dictate an outright gift to be most advantageous, or a planned gift may offer you greater tax advantages. Typical forms of planned gifts include donations of securities or real estate, establishment of a trust, or the purchase of a life insurance policy that names the California Arboretum Foundation as beneficiary.

The end of the year is also an opportune time to evaluate your estate planning. On a national basis, charitable giving through bequests in 1987 amounted to more money than the total amount donated by corporations. According to the American Association of Fund Raising Counsel's Trust for Philanthropy, bequests amounted to \$5.98 billion while corporate giving totaled \$4.5 billion.

If you have questions about how you might benefit by using planned giving to support the California Arboretum Foundation, please contact Beverly Rouse, Director of Development (818) 447-0184.





## Calendar of Events

### October

- Oct. 1 – Volunteer Orientation  
Provisional Volunteers  
9:30 am Lecture Hall B
- Oct. 3 – Volunteer Executive  
Board Meeting, Seminar Room
- Oct. 4, 6, 11, 13, 25, 27 – Volunteer  
Field Leader Training  
Lecture Hall B 9:30 am
- Oct. 5 – Lecture: "New Zealand:  
A Vanishing Heritage"  
by Dr. David Given  
7:30 pm, Lecture Hall  
CAF Members \$4; Guests \$7
- Oct. 13 – Los Angeles Garden Show  
Evening Preview Party, 5:30 pm  
Please make reservations
- Oct. 14 - 23 – Los Angeles Garden Show  
Southern California Plant Industry  
10 am to 6 pm  
\$5 admission; CAF members free
- Oct. 18 – CAF Board of Trustees  
Meeting - 4 pm, Seminar Room

### November

- Nov. 1, 3 – Volunteer Field  
Leader Training  
9:30 am Lecture Hall B
- Nov. 7, 8, 9 – "Creating a Cottage  
Garden in Southern California"  
by Dr. John Feltwell  
9:00 to 12 noon  
Advance reservations only  
\$38 members; \$48 nonmembers
- Nov. 12 - 13 – Gift Shop Open House  
9 am to 4:30 pm
- Nov. 14 – Volunteer General Meeting  
9:30 am to 2 pm
- Nov. 15 – CAF Executive  
Committee Meeting  
4 pm - Seminar Room
- Nov. 19 - 20 – Bonsai Show  
Santa Anita Bonsai Soc.  
Sat. 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun. 9 am-4:30 pm

### December

- Dec. 5 – Volunteer Executive  
Board Meeting-Lunch  
9:30 am Ayres Hall
- Dec. 11 – Santa Anita Depot and  
Queen Anne Open House  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Dec. 20 – CAF Board of Trustees  
Meeting - 4 pm  
Seminar Room

#### Christmas at the Arboretum

The Foundation will sponsor its annual Christmas tree lighting and musical entertainment for the entire family in early December. Watch the winter newsletter for the date and further details.

#### For Sale:

Canon NP 200 copier  
12-14 years old  
\$ 150.00  
Please call the Foundation Office  
if interested 818-447-8207

At the  
Los Angeles Garden Show  
October 14, 15 and 16  
10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Author Donald Hodel will  
autograph his book, "Excep-  
tional Trees of Los Angeles," at  
the Foundation membership  
table in front of Ayres Hall.

The following organizations and societies meet monthly at the Arboretum. The meetings are open to Foundation members:

- Akebono Bonsai Society  
Second Friday, 7:30-10 pm
- Arcadia Garden Club  
Second Wednesday, 9-12:30 pm
- Arboretum District Garden Club  
First Monday, 9:30-12 noon
- California Rare Fruit Growers,  
Foothill Chapter  
Second Sunday, 10:00-12 noon  
Cymbidium Society of America  
Fourth Tuesday, 7-10 pm
- Epiphyllum Society of America  
First Tuesday, 7:30-10 pm
- Herb Society of America  
First Thursday, 8:00 am-3:00 pm
- International Geranium Society  
Third Thursday, 6:30-10 pm
- Los Angeles International  
Fern Society  
First Friday, 7:00-10:00 pm
- Pacific Rose Society  
First Thursday, 5:00 - 10:00 pm
- San Gabriel Valley  
Orchid Hobbyists, Inc.  
Third Thursday, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
- San Gabriel Valley Cactus  
& Succulent Society  
Second Thursday, 7:30-10:00 pm
- Santa Anita Bonsai Society  
Second Sunday, 7:30 - 10 pm
- Shohin Bonsai Society of  
Southern California  
Second Wednesday, 7:30 - 10 pm
- Southern California  
Camellia Society  
Second Tuesday, 6:30 - 10 pm
- Southern California Hemerocallis  
and Amaryllis Society  
Third Saturday, 9:00 - 3:00
- Southern California Iris Society  
First Saturday, 9:00 - 4:00



## Special Events

### Los Angeles Garden Show to open October 14th



*Los Angeles Garden Show Chairman, Cliff Comstock, shows Alice Thomas and LASCA Superintendent John Provine the 1988 Garden Show poster.*

The eighth annual Los Angeles Garden Show will be open Friday, October 14th through Sunday, October 23rd at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation, the three acre show will feature a variety of indoor and outdoor display gardens created by landscape architects and designers, nurserymen and horticulturalists. Each garden will feature flowers and plants that thrive in the Mediterranean climate of Southern California. The variety of the landscapes will reflect this year's theme, "Gardens for All Seasons."

Guest speakers are scheduled daily to lecture on a variety of topics of special interest to Southern California gardeners:

**Thursday, October 13, 6:00-10:00 pm**  
Preview Gala sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation.

**MINI SHOWS:** South Patio, Ayres Hall of Environmental Education

**October 14-23, 10:00 am-6:00 pm**  
Children's Displays, Window Boxes, Succulent Wreaths

**October 14-17, 21-23, 10:00 am-6:00 pm**  
Rose Show

**October 18-20, 10:00 am-6:00 pm**  
Educational Horticultural Show

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

**Friday, October 14, 1:30 pm** "Year Round care of Your Cymbidium Orchids," JoAnne Brown, Stewart Orchids. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Opening Night Party for exhibitors and special guests.

**Saturday, October 15, 11:30am** "The Easy Care of Miniature Roses," Country Bloomers Nursery, and at 1:30 pm "Perennials, Annuals and Biennials For Your Garden," Pamela Ingram, Sassafras Nursery and Farms. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Sunday, October 16, 11:30 am** "Outdoor Orchids for Southern California," Earl Ross, Orchid Curator, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 1:30pm "Creating Living Succulent Wreaths Which Last for Years," Teddy Colbert. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Monday, October 17, 1:30pm** "Choosing and Maintaining the Right Turf for your Home," John Rector, Agronomist, Pacific Sod. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Tuesday, October 18, 1:30pm** "Bulb Gardening in Containers," Dan Davids, Davids and Royston Bulb Co. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Wednesday, October 19, 1:30pm** "Graceful Grasses For Southern California Gardens," Gary Hammer, Desert to Jungle Nursery. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Thursday, October 20, 1:30pm** "New Plants for Southern California Gardens," Audrey Teasdale, Monrovia Nursery Co. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Friday, October 21, 1:30pm** "Books For Southern California Gardens with Emphasis on Drought Tolerant Plants," Virginia Gardner, VLT Gardner Botanical Books. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Saturday, October 22, 11:30 am** "Color and Satisfaction in Your Garden With California Natives," Melanie Baer, Theodore Payne Foundation, and at 1:30 pm "What's Happening at the Huntington Gardens - One of America's Great Horticultural Treasures," Jim Folsom, Ph.D., Curator. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

**Sunday, October 23, 11:30am** "New Plant Introductions for Southern California," Hines Nurseries, and at 1:30pm "Day Lilies for Worlds of Color in your Garden," Ken and Jane Taylor, Greenwood Nursery. Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens Lecture Area.

Visitors are invited to tour the garden show from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm daily. Admission to the Garden Show is free

for members of the California Arboretum Foundation and \$5 for the public.



### Dedication of Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden



The Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation sponsored the dedication of the Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden, Thursday afternoon, September 29, 1988 at 2:00 pm.

Designed by Robert Cornell in memory of his friend Henry C. Soto, a pioneer in the landscape industry, the Water Conservation Garden shows visitors how to make a visually appealing garden with drought tolerant plants and recycled materials. The recently completed garden features blooming perennials and other xerophytic plants that are readily available to the average homeowner. An educational kiosk explains water conservation techniques.

The dedication ceremony featured Director Francis Ching and Sarah Flores, Assistant Chief Deputy to Supervisor Peter Schabarum, who recognized the major donors to the garden. These include: ARCO, The Toro Company, Four Seasons Gardens, Inc., the Department of Water and Power - City of Los Angeles, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Los Angeles/San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association.

All Foundation members who missed the dedication should visit this new educational demonstration garden. Water conservation is very important and every gardener can find helpful suggestions by visiting the Water Conservation Garden.





## Volunteer News

### Versatile Volunteers

By the time the Eighth Los Angeles Garden Show opens on October 14th, Arboretum volunteers will be wearing identifying aprons in a range of colors that will only be equalled by the flowers on display. Dr. Ayres would approve of this addition to the Southern California landscape.

The versatility of talent among the volunteers continues to astound. A request for a seamstress was answered by three already involved in other projects and one provisional. The latter, Esther Schutt, quickly assumed a leadership role by offering to make a pattern and a prototype. Within a few days, Esther returned to the Foundation Office with 14 completed aprons and instructions for the others. The rest of the committee, Marian Webb, Elaine Aschenbrener and Joyce Travis then started to work cutting and sewing. The finishing touch on the aprons is a silkscreen design by Keith Rouse, husband of Beverly, our Development Director.



### Volunteers to enter St. Edmund's Tea and Tablesetting Contest

Thursday, November 3rd, is the date set for the annual St. Edmund's Tea held at the San Marino Women's Club on Huntington Drive. Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes, under the able direction of Joan Fagan, will enter the table setting contest. The theme for this year's tea is "From Tail Backs to Coat Tails," and prizes will be awarded in several categories. For the last seven years, Joan has created the Arboretum's table, winning a prize every year!

CAF members and their guests are invited to attend this lovely event and support our entry. Those attending in the afternoon will experience a delightful tea party from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., and the early evening guests may enjoy wine and cheese from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$5 each and will be sold at the Arboretum Gift Shop beginning October 1st. One dollar from the sale of each ticket will be donated to the California Arboretum Foundation.



### Lavender Hill Mob takes over the Herb Garden

Does anyone remember the movie with Alec Guinness called the "Lavender Hill Mob?" Well, they are back, working in the Herb Garden in the guise of Arboretum volunteers and Herb Society members.

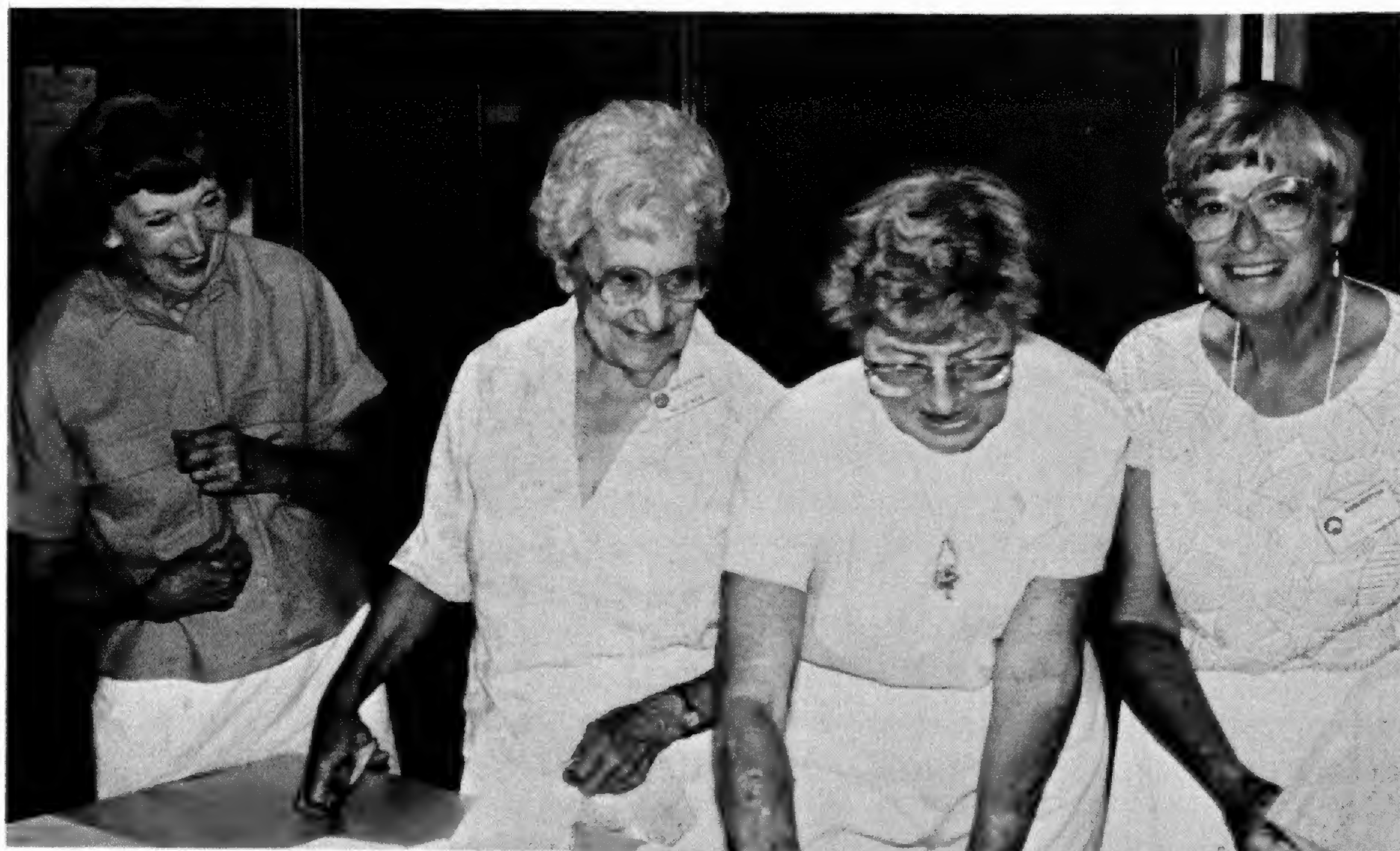
The Arboretum's Herb Garden was designed in 1953 by Edward Huntsman-Trout, a landscape architect, and planted in 1955 by members of the Herb Society of America, Southern California Unit, and by members of the Arboretum staff. Over the years, changes have been made to the original plan: paths were created from flagstone cut from the Palos Verdes Ranch, and an interpretive center was donated by the Hancock Park Garden Club.

The volunteers, who recently began working on the Herb Garden, are from the Arboretum's Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes, and from the Southern California Unit of the Herb Society of America. They meet monthly on the first Wednesday to work in the garden. New members are welcome! Anyone interested in working in the Herb



*Members of the "Lavender Hill Mob," (l to r), Joan DeFato, Ruth Mary Larson, Norma Johanson, and Bea Miller gather to work on the Herb Garden.*

Garden should contact Norma Johanson at the Arboretum Gift Shop, 447-8751. Many workers are needed as the garden is 1.2 acres in size! The goal of the project is to make the Herb Garden one of the finest in the country.



*(l to r) Elaine Aschenbrener, Marian Webb, Esther Schutt and Joyce Travis make Arboretum aprons.*





*Marilyn Bochte and her family enjoy dinner at LASCA volunteers' picnic in June.*



*Field Leader, Barb Kovacic, brought her family and friends to the Las Vols picnic.*

#### *Larson, continued from page 2*

inventory of the shop from what was essentially souvenirs to plants and books on horticulture. Having served on the Foundation Board of Trustees for two years as volunteer president, she was now elected to her first regular three year term and to the position of Vice President of the Board during Cecelia (Tootie) Grivich's term as President. Ruth Mary succeeded Tootie to the president's job and worked for the Arboretum in that position for three years that were important for the completion of the fund-raising for the Hall of Environmental Education (later to be known as Ayres Hall).

During this same time period, Ruth Mary was continuing as Gift Shop Manager and serving on the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens Board of Governors, having been appointed by Supervisor Pete Schabarum in 1973. The shop was very successful and returned a handsome net profit to the Foundation. It became necessary to move it out of the ground floor of the Peacock Pavilion and into a renovated and expanded building near the front entrance. Ruth Mary spent more than 40 volunteer hours a week overseeing

the operation and doing the buying. In 1982, at the urging of the other trustees, she finally hired a paid manager. The new shop opened in 1983. That April, Ruth Mary was named Volunteer of the Year for the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. She was among the top ten volunteers for the entire Los Angeles County. In 1984 she was elected President of the Board of Governors.

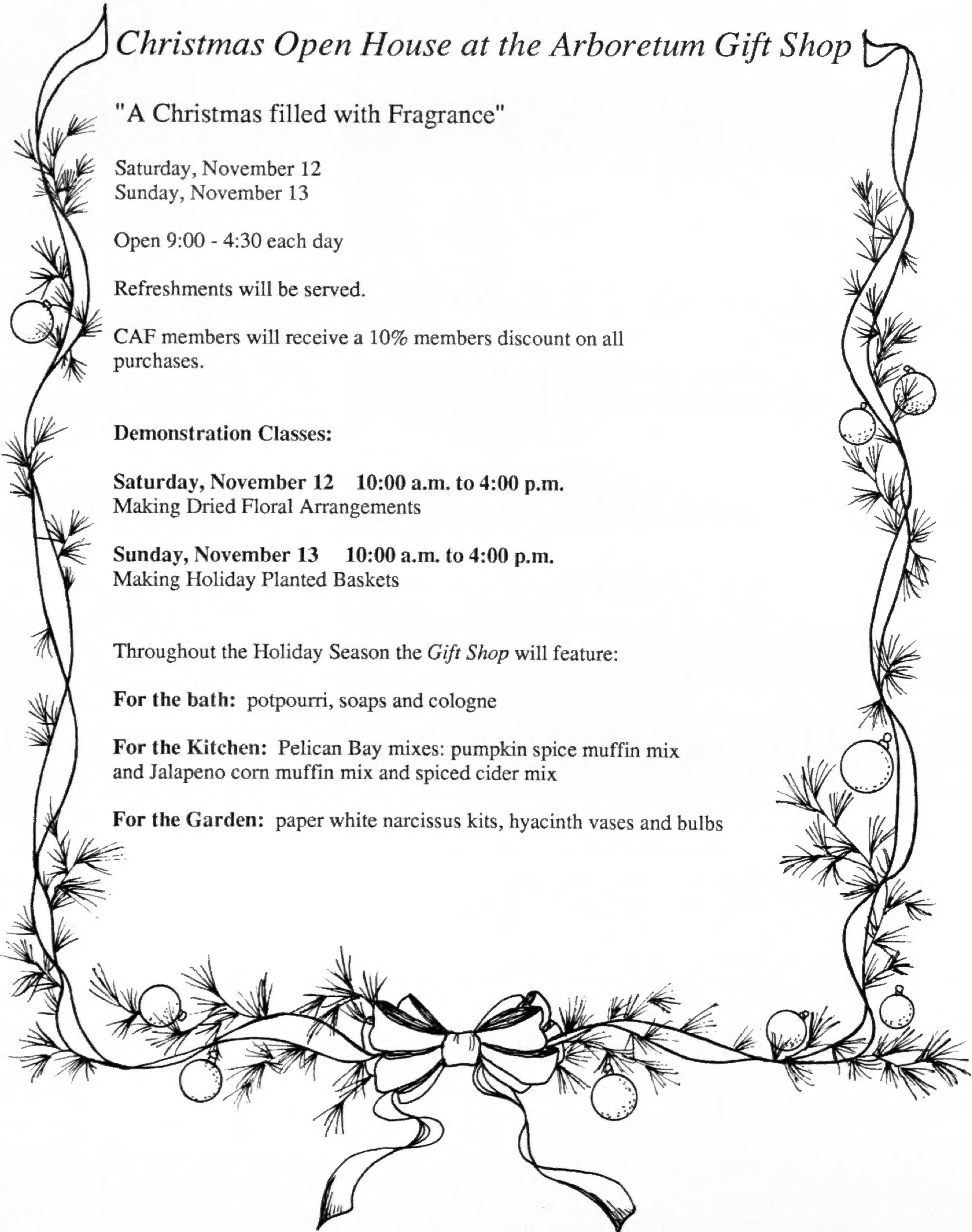
As Ruth Mary became more and more involved at the Arboretum, she recruited the three other members of her bridge foursome to help in the Gift Shop. Her husband, Leland, worked as a cashier at plant sales, was a bartender at parties, and filled a multitude of other volunteer jobs as the need arose. Even her children were pressed into service when necessary.

With the Gift Shop under new management, Ruth Mary took off for an extended stay in Great Britain with an English woman she had met in the Gift Shop. In 1986, Leland, an engineering contractor, retired and the Larsons took off for two months in Europe. Nowadays, they seem to be always on a trip or planning a trip. Missing several trustee meetings, Ruth Mary has insisted that she be allowed to resign from the Foundation Board. She is adamant that she will not stay on a board when she cannot fulfill her obligations, excellent volunteer that she is.

We wish Ruth Mary and Leland the best of times as they travel and do all the things Ruth Mary did not do when she was contributing so much time and talent to LASCA. There is nobody that deserves higher praise or greater gratitude from those she leaves behind. The good news is that Ruth Mary promises to work in the Gift Shop when she is in town. A leader, a listener, an advisor and a good friend, she will be missed.







## *Christmas Open House at the Arboretum Gift Shop*

"A Christmas filled with Fragrance"

Saturday, November 12

Sunday, November 13

Open 9:00 - 4:30 each day

Refreshments will be served.

CAF members will receive a 10% members discount on all purchases.

### **Demonstration Classes:**

**Saturday, November 12 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Making Dried Floral Arrangements

**Sunday, November 13 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Making Holiday Planted Baskets

Throughout the Holiday Season the *Gift Shop* will feature:

**For the bath:** potpourri, soaps and cologne

**For the Kitchen:** Pelican Bay mixes: pumpkin spice muffin mix and Jalapeno corn muffin mix and spiced cider mix

**For the Garden:** paper white narcissus kits, hyacinth vases and bulbs



The California Arboretum Foundation is sponsoring the publication of the book, *"Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles,"* by Donald R. Hodel, the Environmental Horticulture Advisor for the Los Angeles Office of the University of California.

Price: \$14.95

The Foundation will offer a prepublication price of \$12.95 to our members. The shipping and handling fee is \$2.50, or you will be notified that your book may be picked up at the Gift Shop.

**Description:**

A 80 page book, illustrated with 250 color photographs by the author, documents 167 exceptional trees from the Los Angeles area. Included in the listings are ten specimens from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and three from the Virginia Robinson Gardens.



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**BOOK ORDER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of *"Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles"* at \$12.95.

\$2.50 postage

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MASTER CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: California Arboretum Foundation  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006-2697



## Gift Shop News

Come and Celebrate the Glory of  
A Scented Christmas!

On Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13, you are invited to come to the Arboretum Gift Shop Open House. Come and explore all of the ways to use fragrance in the house and garden. Experience our demonstration classes of holiday decorating ideas: Saturday, November 12, dried floral arrangements and Sunday, November 13, basket gardens.

The Holiday season is the time of the year when we can use fragrances to the fullest. The wonderful aromas coming from the kitchen: spiced cookies, pies, muffins and hot cider. The delicate scents in the bath and boudoir; bowls of potpourri throughout the house along with blooming paper whites, pine boughs and bayberry.

Throughout the fall, the Gift Shop will feature many specialty items including: the Norfolk lavender items; John Wagner dried herbs and teas; Pelican Bay products - a variety of dip mixes and muffin mixes. For California entertaining, wonderful acrylic high-ball and double old fashioned glasses are available with matching pitcher and tray in a grape motif. Other possible gift items include our wonderful glass potpourri containers with pewter lids and paper white narcissus bulb kits.

Come and visit the Gift Shop early in the season. Let our ideas spark your imagination and get your holiday shopping finished early!



Guests join the fun of the picnic setting contest before the Louise Mandrell Concert at LASCA in August.

*Chorisa Speciosa*, continued from page 1

Several of these seedlings can now be seen growing on Tallac Knoll. *Chorisias* are always interesting - thorny trunks; graceful leaves, like the fingers of a hand; beautiful blossoms that can be described as large, narrow petaled hibiscus, with colors from orchid pink to purplish rose, to mulberry, to burgundy, with no two trees' blossoms exactly the same. Their seed pods, about six to eight inches in length, look like tempting fruit until they burst open, to reveal a strange harvest of silky floss with seeds. This floss, related to kapok, is sometimes used for pillow stuffing.

*Chorisia speciosa* is a Brazilian ornamental flowering tree. It is propagated by seeds or grafts. The latter method is favored at LASCA as grafted trees flower several years earlier than seedling trees. The tree grows quickly at first, then slows to reach a height of 30 to 60 feet. When mature, the trees need watering only once a month during the summer, and prefer less before the blooming period (August to December) when they are deciduous.

*Chorisia speciosa* was named for Ludwig Choris, the botanical artist who accompanied Otto von Kotzebue on one of his exploratory sea voyages around the world. The voyage took place in 1815 and is presumed to be the first voyage from Kronstadt to South America and around Cape Horn. Von Kotzebue explored in the Pacific, charted the coast of Alaska, discovered Kotzebue Sound, and returned to Russia with a collection of plants and a body of ethnological information.

*Chorisia speciosa* is a member of the bombax family (Bombacaceae), an exotic and fascinating group of tropical flowering trees. *Chorisia speciosa* is indigenous to Brazil and the Misiones region of Argentina (between Brazil and Paraguay). The trees were initially introduced into this country by the United States Department of Agriculture. They are found in the southern regions of the United States from Florida west to California.

A few intriguing members of the family are:

The red silk cotton tree (*Bombax ceiba*), another Arboretum introduction, is one of the best known and most beautiful trees of India, with four-inch brilliant crimson flowers, that have flowered at the Arboretum.

The shaving brush tree (*Pseudobombax ellipticum*), a native from Mexico to Guatemala, has flowers that are massed upright bundles of long pink and white stamens, standing free from the flowers, to look like a shaving brush! This tree also has been growing and blooming for many years at the Arboretum.

The durian (*D. zibethinus*), native to West Malay Archipelago, produces a fruit that weighs about five pounds and is around ten inches in length. The durian, with its delicate flavor yet highly disagreeable odor, is relished by many people. The August-September 1988 issue of "National Wildlife" reports that, "...some exotic fruits assault the nose while tantalizing the tastebuds." Julia Morton, an economic botanist at the University of Miami, in her book, *Fruits of Warm Climates* reports the durian, "reminded one plant explorer of combined cheese, decayed onion and turpentine, or garlic, Limburger cheese and some spicy sort of resin. But after first taste, the odor is scarcely noticed."

*Chorisia speciosa* was selected to be an Arbor Day tree twice. The trees were distributed to organizations and schools throughout Los Angeles County for Arbor Day ceremonies. This magnificent Arboretum introduction has brought beauty to gardens throughout Southern California.

by Constance Wood





## Membership News

### Christmas is coming!!

A great idea for everyone on your Christmas list is a GIFT MEMBERSHIP in the California Arboretum Foundation. Membership in CAF will provide a gift with benefits that last all year long. These include: free admission to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum - open every day but Christmas; a 10% discount at the Arboretum's Gift Shop; a subscription to CAF NEWS - the Foundation's quarterly newsletter; discounted registration fees to lectures, seminars and classes.

To purchase a Gift Membership, please complete the form on the back page of this issue.

For further information, please contact Lonna Brock, our Membership Secretary, at the Foundation office, 818-447-8207. Foundation membership gives both you and the gift recipient the opportunity to support botanical research and education in Southern California.



## Horticultural Problems? Write to Rose Green

With this issue of the California Arboretum Foundation NEWS, we are starting a new column that will try to answer horticultural problems from our readers. As space permits, we will also share some of the questions that are received by the Botanical Information Committee.

LASCA's Botanical Information Department offers an excellent service to the community. Trained volunteers staff the office telephone, Monday through Friday 9:30 to 12:30, to answer questions from the public. The telephone number is 818-446-8251, extension 53. The Botanical Information Committee is chaired by Virginia Stein. Other volunteer members are Ruth Bette, Janet Dabney, Mary Hager, Aileen Martin, Mary McBroom, Carmen Noll, Mary Scott, Ilona Sutheim and Ronnie Virgadamo. Last year they answered 2570 calls. Any questions they cannot answer are referred to Arboretum staff members.

If you have a horticultural problem, please write our new columnist, Rose



*Is this Rose Green? No, it is Virginia Stein, Botanical Information Committee Chair.*

Green. Plant behavior is sometimes puzzling, and she may not be able to solve your problem. In that case, you might send your question on to one of those popular columnists who give daily advice on people problems.

Dear Rose Green:

I found mosquito larvae in my pond. Where can I get mosquito fish?  
*Signed, Itchy*

Dear Itchy:

Call Mosquito Abatement 213-927-6526. Bring your own container to 9510 South Garfield Ave., South Gate.  
Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 to 4:00.

Dear Rose:

What are the differences between mineral, loam and organic soils?  
*Signed, Soiled*

Dear Dirty:

A mineral soil is a soil derived from broken down rocks. A loam soil is composed of three different sizes of mineral soil: sand-course; silt-intermediate; clay-extremely fine, colloidal. An organic soil is mineral soil with approximately 10% humus. Fifty percent or more humus is a muck soil. It will not grow good plants.

Dear Rose:

Where did the term humus originate?  
*Signed, Curious*

Dear Curious:

Ed Hume, garden editor of the Post Intelligencer newspaper, is considered to be the originator and popularizer of humus, the single most important gardening discovery of the 20th century. He is credited with saying, "When I die Hume will become humus."

Please address your questions to:

Rose Green c/o  
California Arboretum Foundation  
301 N. Baldwin Avenue  
Arcadia, California 91006.



## NEW CAF MEMBERS

The California Arboretum Foundation extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. D'Amato  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Behnke  
Mr. and Mrs. Nino Carbe  
Mrs. Susan Clark  
Ms. Ruth J. Cushman  
Mr. and Mrs. Les Duffield-Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Felix Fischer  
Mrs. Peggy Fritz  
Mrs. Patricia G. Hanft  
Rev. and Mrs. Earle R. Harvey  
Ms. Barbara L. Hedlund  
Ms. Helen H. Herrera  
Mr. H. Kent Hodson  
Mr. James H. Hunter  
Ms. Peggy Ingham  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jacobs  
Ms. Lucille Jarvis  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Johannsen  
Mr. L. A. Jodan  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jump  
Mrs. Anne P. Knoll  
Mrs. Paul Lambert  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lanham  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman A. Neisen  
Ms. Karen Prescott  
Mr. Donald Putrimus  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ragains  
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Ragin  
Dr. Gregory Robins  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rochefort  
Mr. Peter Semrad  
Ms. Anne M. Serles  
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson E. Small  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snoddy  
Ms. LaVeta E. Strong  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ulrich  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wedemeyer





## Letters to the Editor

The inaugural issue of CAF News elicited a positive response from Foundation members. Several individuals took the time to telephone the office with their comments, and the editor received the following personal notes:

Dear Brooke:

Just yesterday, I received the Summer 1988 issue of NEWS and I wanted you to know how much I enjoy reading it. I have not completely read it from cover to cover, but my eye landed on the history of the Blue Hibiscus.

It's amazing what one can learn from reading! I did not know that the Blue Hibiscus was native to Australia; it looks like it should be native to California — Southern California, that is.

The entire booklet is a lovely thing and I plan to keep it for whatever posterity I leave behind.

I have been a member of the CAF for several years and I want to say: "Happy Birthday to the California Arboretum Foundation." Long may it wave and prosper. The innovations

that I have seen portend even better things to come.

Sincerely,  
Grace B. Weinstein

Dear Editor:

Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed the first edition and to express my gratitude for all the work the CAF has done to support the Arboretum. It's nice to be able to hear more about what's going on. Good job!

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Templin

### Of Special Note

Constance Wood's article on the Blue Hibiscus was praised many times, and was quoted in an editorial in the Opinion section of the Los Angeles Times! Our special thanks to Connie for her columns on Arboretum introductions.

YES, I want to help COLOR CALIFORNIA by supporting the Arboretum as a member of the California Arboretum Foundation. Please enroll me in the following category:

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